



Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission

Pres. – Steve Eberly V. Pres. – Dave Hacker

Secretary – Dale Brier

July 8, 2020 1:00 pm

Civic Center – Sun Room

225 E Riverside Dr, Peru, IN 46970

***** For the safety of members, staff, and guests, it is highly recommended for everyone to wear face coverings and adhere to social distancing. *****

Meeting Agenda

Call to Order, Introductions, Announce Proxies, Open Agenda

Review and Approval of March 4, 2020 Minutes

Comments from Visitors or Guests

DNR Finance Report (Dale Brier)

- ✦ State Budget Cuts

Committee Reports

- ✦ River Road (Steve Eberly)
 - River Road Interactive Map Showcase
- ✦ River Curriculum (Arin Shaver)

Old Business

- ✦ Previous funding requests
 - Clean out the Banks – Wabash County
 - Peddle, Paddle, Play – Allen County
 - Wonderful Wabash – Posey County

New Business

- ✦ New funding requests

Announcements & General Reminders/Discussion

- ✦ November WRHCC Meeting & Veteran's Day
- ✦ Other county or special event announcements, Festival dates for next year, etc.
- ✦ Final comments by Commission members, alternates, and guests

Next Meeting: September 9, 2020
 Posey County

If you anticipate needing a reasonable modification under the ADA to participate or have questions concerning access at the meeting locations, please contact Ric Edwards, DNR ADA/Safety Director, at REdwards@dnr.IN.gov or 317-232-4145.



Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission
Pres. – Steve Eberly V. Pres. – Dave Hacker
Treasurer – Robert Shepherd Secretary – Dale Brier

March 4, 2020 1:00 pm
Turkey Run State Park Inn
8102 East Park Rd. Marshall, IN, 47859

Attendance

Voting Members Present:

Adams County - Randy Lehman
Allen County - Ron Zartman (alt)
Cass County - Arin Shaver
Fountain County - Bob Shepherd
Gibson County - Bill Knowles
Huntington County - Dave Hacker
Miami County - Ken Einselen
Parke County - Penny Cox
Posey County - Ralph Weinzapfel
Sullivan County - John Gettinger
Tippecanoe County - Jim Andrews
Vermillion County - Les Zimmerman (alt)
Vigo County - Brendan Kearns
Wabash County - Michael Beauchamp
Warren County - Steve Eberly
Wells County - Douglas Sundling
DNR - Dale Brier

Guests:

Allen Hurst- DNR Outdoor Recreation
Bill Smith- INDOT
Carrie Parmenter- Posey Co SWCD
Phil Cox- Parke County Alternate

Counties not represented:

Carroll County
Knox County

Meeting minutes

Call to Order, Introductions, Announce Proxies, Open Agenda

President Steve Eberly called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm. Everyone in attendance introduced himself or herself. Dale Brier announced that Sandy Voglewede had stepped down from her position as Adams County representative and introduced the newly appointed member Randy Lehman. The agenda had no additions.

Review and Approval of January 8, 2020 Minutes

Two misspellings were noted. Jim Andrew motioned to accept the minutes with corrections. Ken Einselen seconded and the motion passed.

Comments from Visitors or Guests

Answering a previous inquiry, Bill Smith of INDOT reported it is possible for signs to be mounted on state bridges with proper approvals and permitting. He added that the preferred location would be on the bridge piers. Furthermore, INDOT is also allowing paintings, murals, and artwork on bridge piers. Such artwork also would need to go through the INDOT permitting system. All permitting is done through the local INDOT districts. Any questions can be directed to the INDOT WHRCC liaison Scott Chandler.

Randy Lehman asked if they would be need to go through the permitting system for a pedestrian bridge. Smith answered that if it is an INDOT-owned bridge, that yes, he would. He added that INDOT likely does not own a pedestrian bridge over the Wabash River, and he would instead need to contact the bridge owner for permission.

Retreat Review

Brier thanked the talented and amazing Allen Hurst for helping organize the retreat at Turkey Run. Eberly thanked Brier for his work involved and getting the retreat setup as well. Brier noted the retreat topics each had their own section on the agenda, and will be discussed later.

Finance Report

Brier handed out the current finance report (see attached). He noted that the rate of revenue accumulation has leveled out and returned to a normal rate.

Lehman asked how often the money gets added into the fund. Brier responded that it varies, and announced that the director of DNR Oil and Gas will present to the commission at the September meeting, he can answer specifics about the revenue. In response the other questions, Brier noted WHRCF grant projects monies have already been encumbered and accounted for. The current available balance of the fund is \$207,341.

Shaver asked if WRHCF grants will be offered next year. Brier answered that he is hesitant to say at this juncture. It will depend on other projects and their associated costs, such as the river curriculum and river road.

Treasurer Report

Bob shepherd lost his voice, so Eberly discussed the treasurer report. He noted expenses are on par with previous years, then opened it up to questions or comments.

Dave Hacker commented the Forks of the Wabash fund, and that is requires activity every few years so it remains open. He has been donating \$5 to it for said activity, and welcomed donations into the fund. Ralph Weinzapfel asked how the fund was established. Einselen explained that two artists had done paintings for every county along the Wabash River. They auctioned off the artwork and donated 10% of the proceeds over to the WRHCC, thereby creating the fund.

Eberly asked for a motion to accept the financial reports. Hacker so moved, and Einselen seconded. Motion passed.

Committee Reports

River Road- Eberly reported that he and Vanessa Rainwater are meeting with Tippecanoe County on Friday to discuss the River Road project. Tippecanoe County already have a map and Excel document of noted attractions, and will host the information on their servers. He said the WRHCC webpage, hosted by the DNR, will have a link to the River Road project website.

Shaver asked how people would find the River Road website, noting a concern that no one may find it from that Wabash page alone. Brier said that page gets very few hits, so members should promote the River Road project through their own networks. Hurst added that the DNR could link to the project from other, more popularly visited DNR pages.

Doug Sundling asked what assets and attractions are included. Eberly answered there is already a list, to which Brier advised members to expect possible follow up from Eberly, Rainwater, or Tippecanoe County for updates on attractions, as the current list is a few years old. Sundling inquired how much the project will cost. Eberly was unsure, but noted it should not be much.

Brendan Kearns asked if there was a current map, and what roads are designated as such for this project. Einselen responded that he has the map files and will send it to all commission members following the meeting. Kearns asked about physical signs, to which Brier replied this is a digital project. Einselen added some counties have put up metal signs, but they have since faded.

Old Business

River Curriculum –

Eberly presented an overview of the proposed river curriculum workshops lead by Rod Williams. In summary, Williams leads a workshop that teaches teachers a river and water quality curriculum. Teachers attend these workshops from around the state and would receive points towards their certification. While there is no cost for the curriculum or for Williams time, there is a cost to provide lunches, and for stipends for the teachers. The stipends act as an incentive and are contingent on teachers taking the curriculum and implementing it into their classrooms, and then providing feedback.

Hacker started the conversation asking if it would be appropriate to designate money for a river curriculum program and potential stipends for the teachers. Arin Shaver asked if only counties along the Wabash would be eligible to receive stipends. Hacker replied yes.

Eberly noted that it would be on each county to utilize their own networks to get teachers excited about attending the program. Les Zimmerman described how he will promote the curriculum in Vermillion County and planned to start that Friday.

Bob Shepherd recommend \$10,000 to be designated for the program. Hacker explained the \$10,000 would be for three classes, one in each region of the Wabash. Between class costs and stipends, it should average out to around \$3,500 per class. Doug Sundling asked what the individual stipend to each teacher would be. The commission debated anywhere from \$100-\$300 stipend per teacher.

Phil Cox asked if the curriculum would be Wabash specific, and if it could be even more specific to each region of the Wabash. There was debate about whether the curriculum could be modified, and how much that may cost. Shaver recommended creating a curriculum committee to follow-up on with Williams and ask him a multitude of questions.

Many debates occurred as to what the program could or could not do, to which Eberly brought back to two questions. First, does the commission want to move forward with such a program. If so, how much money should be designated for the program. Brier cautioned about handing out money right away after just hearing the presentation that very day. He did, however, encourage members to reach out and start the conversation.

Eberly asked if Shaver would chair a curriculum committee, to which she agreed. Hacker asked if he may be a part of the committee. Randy Lehman expressed interest in the committee. Jim Andrews volunteered Vanessa Rainwater. Carrie Parmenter volunteered to help as a SWCD member. Weinzapfel later recommended Phil Cox also work on the curriculum committee.

Einselen pointed out that summer, which is the ideal season to lead this workshop, is coming up fast. If the commission were interested, they would have to move quick. He then made a motion to designate \$10,000 for three to four presentations, and to create the curriculum committee to follow-up with Williams and ask further questions. Shaver seconded the motion, and the commission voted to approve the money designation and committee creation.

It was noted the money is only designated, and that no immediate dates to spend this money are set. The consensus is to proceed carefully, and that any actual money spent will need its own, separate vote.

Shaver asked for questions that should be asked of Williams. The questions agreed upon are:

- Recommended stipend amount.
- Is the watershed adaptable to the Wabash?
- When is the money needed to move forward with a workshop?
- What is William's personal schedule, and when is he available?
- What would a day long curriculum look like?

She will reach out to Williams and report back at the next meeting.

Sponsorship Guidelines – The guidelines were discussed during the morning retreat at length. Eberly noted the commission consensus was to re-endorse the current guidelines and policies. Les Zimmerman motioned to renew the sponsorship guidelines as is, Weinzapfel seconded. Motion passed. No changes were made to the sponsorship guidelines.

Previous Funding Requests

- **2020 Wabash Riverfest-** No follow-up questions or comments. Shaver motioned to approve the \$1,000 sponsorship for the 2020 Wabash Riverfest. Zartman seconded, and the motion passed.
- **De-Trash the Wabash-** No follow-up questions or comments. Zartman motioned to approve the \$1,000 sponsorship for the De-Trash the Wabash event. Bill Knowles seconded, and the motion passed.

New Business

New Funding Requests

- **Clean Out the Banks-** Mike Beauchamp presented the event as president of the Wabash River Defenders. He shared a short video of the event. 2020 will be the 10th anniversary of the Clean Out the Banks event. To date, the group had pulled 5,000+ tires out of the river, and over 130 tons of trash in the 19.2 miles of river in Wabash County. 200-400 people volunteer for the event each year. Clean Out the Banks is on July 25, and the Defenders asked for \$1,000 in sponsorship.
- **Wonderful Wabash-** Parmenter presented the event on behalf of the Posey County SWCD. The event is a 10.5-mile float on the Wabash River starting in Harmonie State Park. Education stations will be set-up on sandbars along the river. Lunch and t-shirts will be provided for the participants at the end. It is the 7th year for the event and they usually get around 100 people. Registration for participants is \$10/person and renting a canoe is \$25. Wonderful Wabash is on August 8 and the request is for \$1,000.
- **Peddle, Paddle, Play-** Zartman presented the event on behalf of the Northeast Indiana Regional Coordinating Council (NIRCC). He described who the NIRCC are and that they promote and develop water trails over 10 counties and 3 watersheds in the northeast. This will be the 5th Peddle, Paddle, Play and the event will host a myriad of activities, fun and educational, both on the river and at Promenade Park. He noted the registration costs and said the funds raised will go towards promotional and educational materials for water trails in the northeast. Zartman, Beauchamp, and Hacker all noted that they had previously attended the event and that it was a wonderful time. Peddle, Paddle, Play is on July 18 and the request is for \$1,000.

Announcements & General Reminders/Discussion

November WRHCC Meeting & Veteran's Day- Eberly noted that the November meeting falls on Veterans Day (Wednesday, November 11) which is a state holiday. He

then asked on what day the commission would like to reschedule that meeting. The commission agreed to move the November meeting back one day to Thursday, November 12 at 1:00pm.

Other county or special event announcements- Zartman asked where the next meetings will be held. Hurst answered the May meeting will be hosted in Vigo County. Brier added the other meetings will be in Miami County, Posey County, then Indianapolis to round out 2020. Kearns followed up with the tentative plans for the May meeting.

Cox announced that the Maple Syrup Fest in Parke County was the upcoming weekend on Mar 7-8.

Eberly said his crocus flowers were doing splendidly. Hurst was sure to note the comment and add it into the minutes.

Final comments by Commission members, alternates, and guests

Eberly thanked the DNR and hotel staff for a wonderful retreat.

Adjournment

Eberly called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Hacker so moved, and Einselen seconded. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 2:33 pm.

Next Meeting: CANCELLED

48686 Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund

FY20 as of
12/31/2019

<u>Account</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Revenue</u>
431401	AD - Oil and Gas royalty along		\$ 126,708.13
510101	Payroll Salaries & Wages	\$ 3,608.15	
516003	Payroll Social Security	\$ 268.67	
517003	Payroll Perf St Pd Em COntr	\$ 108.24	
517005	Payroll PERF State Share	\$ 404.09	
518105	Anthem CDHP1	\$ 394.20	
518606	Payroll Life Insurance	\$ 5.38	
518796	Payroll Anthem Dental Trad	\$ 19.10	
518800	Anthem Vision	\$ 3.06	
518901	Payroll Employee Assistance	\$ 0.72	
519006	Payroll Long Term Disability	\$ 46.39	
519503	Payroll Def Comp - StateMatch	\$ 24.95	
519722	HSA Health Savings Acct 2	\$ 41.13	
541002	Mot Veh Ex - Gasoline	\$ 43.35	
546002	Off-Office Supplies	\$ 259.70	
571010	Grants - Cities		
571100	Grants - Counties		
595110	InState Travel - Mileage	\$ 1,429.56	
595180	InState Travel - Board Member	\$ 2,368.66	
599036	AdmOp-PostageMeter/Potage	\$ 249.24	
599116	AdmOp-Event Sponsor	\$ 2,750.00	
750007	Approp Tfr - OUT		

Total FY19 Expense To Date: \$ 12,024.59

Fund Balance:	
	7/1/2019 92,657
FY19 revenues	126,708
FY19 Expenses	12,025
balance as of 12/31/2019	207,341

DNR payroll	\$ 4,924.08
travel costs	\$ 3,798.22
sponsorships	\$ 2,750.00
operating	\$ 552.29
Grants	\$ -
Total	\$ 12,024.59